



# Hastings Branch

April 2018



## President's Message

Lisa West

Happy Spring? We all know it's coming... eventually... We just need to be "Bold North" patient, right?

We're heading down the home stretch of this program year – next up is our annual Spring Social meeting on April 23. I'm looking forward to that and I hope you are too. We've had some terrific program topics this past year –interesting and engaging. Last months' program on the current health care system was no exception, except for one thing. I'm not going to sugar-coat it – the personal political commentary provided by last months' speaker was unacceptable. I want to assure all members that no one on the Board was aware that the speaker would pepper her timely and informational presentation with so much politically partisan content. I want to reiterate to all members that although AAUW is a politically active organization, it is a non-partisan organization that seeks to welcome all members, regardless of personal beliefs, opinions, and affiliations – political or otherwise.

For anyone to believe that our meeting room is filled with people who think and feel exactly alike is astounding to me. And regardless of how you may have personally felt, some of the speaker's political comments were offensive to some of our members. That's right; you may have been sitting near someone who does not share your political views. I'm calling on all members to please be respectful of one another.

The Board discussed this issue at its April 2 meeting and will be taking the following steps to ensure this uncomfortable situation doesn't happen again:

1. Program content will be explored, with attention to political overtones/undertones; care and steps will be taken to ensure the unbiased presentation of factual information on appropriate, AAUW mission-based topics.
2. Program speakers will be provided with basic AAUW information, be made aware of the organization's non-partisan stance on issues, and be directed to keep personal, political opinions out of their presentations.
3. Political facts will be acceptable in presentations; but will require equal, factual attention to at least the two major political parties.

I don't want members or guests feeling uncomfortable, or having their beliefs and political affiliations mocked at our meetings. I don't want members or guests feeling unwelcome. To this end, the Board will consider your suggestions on other ways we can ensure our meetings are welcoming to all members and guests. We work best when we're working together, respecting each other, and accepting our differences. I don't care what political party you're affiliated with, you've just got to agree with that.

See you in a couple of weeks for an enjoyable evening at the Dakota Pines Golf Club!

April quote: "We can have unity in diversity and diversity in unity. We don't have to be like one another to enjoy sisterhood." ~ Barbara W. Winder

## Program

Rosalie Cavis & Deb Saunders

**REMINDER:** if you haven't already done so, please sign up as soon as possible for the April Spring Social on Monday April 23rd beginning at 5:30pm at the Dakota Pines Golf Club. The cost is \$30. Checks can be made out to Rudy's Catering. Contact Rosalie Cavis at [cavis4@gmail.com](mailto:cavis4@gmail.com) or 651-442-5839. Checks can be mailed to [12466 Jason Ave. Hastings, MN 55033](mailto:12466 Jason Ave. Hastings, MN 55033). Our speaker for the evening will be Dr. Mona Roach, with her presentation of "Mindfulness and Meditation".

### Upcoming Events

- April 9.....Book Club
- April 23.....**SPRING SOCIAL**
- May 3.....Gad-Abouts
- May 7.....Board Meeting

### HASTINGS BRANCH

Meets on Mondays at...  
St. Philip's Lutheran Church  
1401 15th Street West, Hastings, Minnesota 55033

### 2017-2018 PROGRAMS

**September 25, 6:00 pm SALAD SUPPER**  
**Hastings School Board Candidates and Superintendent Tim Collins**  
2017 NCCWSL Takeaway, Scholarship Recipients  
Rosemary Pechous and Loren Bushyhead

**October 23, 6:00 pm AT HHS**  
**Sexual Assault on High School and College Campuses--St. Olaf College Sexual Assault Resource Network Speakers**  
Co-presentation with Hastings High School  
Feminism Club and Counseling Office

**November 27, 7:00 pm**  
**Poverty in our Midst: Facts, Figures and Action to Address Poverty in Dakota County**  
Kelly Harder, Dir., Dakota County Community Services

**December 18, 7:00 pm HOLIDAY SOCIAL**  
**Food, Music and Celebration**

**January 22, 6:00 pm CHILI SUPPER**  
**Her Story – Some Hastings Women Who Made a Difference**  
Heidi Langenfeld, Local Historian

**February 26, 7:00 pm**  
**History of African Americans in Minnesota**  
Bill Green

**March 26, 7:00 pm**  
**What's Next for State Health Care Policy: Cost and Coverage**  
Lynn A. Blewett, U of M School of Public Health

**April 23, 6:00 pm SPRING SOCIAL**  
**Meditation and Mindfulness**  
Dr. Mona Roach

**May 21, 7:00 pm**  
**"Katie's Kids" Program**  
Joan Demeules, St Catherine's University Access and Success Director

## President's Message—National Dues Increase Approved

Lisa West

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I first wrote about this potential AAUW National dues increase in February 2017. It's been approved. The AAUW National Board voted to increase dues by \$10, from \$49 to \$59, effective, March 16, 2018. As a reminder, AAUW National hasn't raised dues for nine years, since 2009. The portion of our dues that goes to AAUW National is used, in part, to support programs in research, campus initiatives, STEM education, public policy, case support, educational funding, global connections, member leadership, and salary negotiation. The Hastings Board discussed our financial options on March 13. With our current, small and relatively tight budget, we simply can't absorb this national dues increase, without consequently raising our dues. Of our current, per member, \$80 dues, \$59 would go to AAUW National, \$9 would go to AAUW Minnesota (unchanged), and we'd be left with only \$12, instead of \$22, to administer our local branch. So, on March 13, the Board voted to increase our membership dues from \$80 to \$90, effective for the 2018-2019 program year. The Board hopes that all members will understand the need to increase our local dues. Please let any Board member know if you'd like to discuss this dues increase further.

## Secretary

Pam Pontzer

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### AAUW HASTINGS BRANCH - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES – March 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by President Lisa West.

Lisa welcomed the membership and informed the group that our branch had been recognized by AAUW National. Olivia Guerrieri, Assistant to Elizabeth Holden, AAUW National Grassroots Advocacy Manager, congratulated our branch for its activism in supporting female candidates running for elective office, and for hosting a candidate forum. Guerrieri noted the letter of support that Hastings AAUW member Kathy O'Keefe submitted to the Hastings Star Gazette in support of Kelsey Waits, who was running for District 200 School Board. Thank you to both Kathy and Kelsey for getting our branch recognized by AAUW National.

The Secretary's Report was approved for the February 2018 General Meeting with a motion by Pat Powers, and seconded by Betty Hoeschen. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Treasurer, Mary Charlson informed the group that the checking account balance is \$1898.86. Our membership stands at 91. A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Gail Glashan and seconded by Glenda Schnirring. The motion was unanimously approved.

Membership Co-Chair Ruth Versaw and Camille Nelson were absent. It was noted earlier that membership stands at 91.

Program Co-Chair Deb Saunders and Rosalie Cavis - Rosalie noted the Spring Social will be held on April 23, 2018 at the Hastings Golf Club. Dr. Mona Roach will speak to the group on Mediation and Mindfulness. The cost is \$30.00. Deb handed around a paper containing possible topics for members to consider for the 2018-2019 program year.

Public Policy Chair Pat Powers noted that Elizabeth Holden, AAUW Grassroots Advocacy Manager informed the membership that AAUW members had submitted over 10,000 emails to legislators prior to passage of the Tax Cut Bill of 2017. This barrage of emails helped to restore money for Pell Grants, the Office of Civil Rights, the Department of Education, Health Care, and Reproductive Rights. Many members from the Hastings Branch attended the "March for Our Lives" rally held at the capital on March 24, 2018. Marilyn Tenneson was one of our members who attended. She noted that The League of Women Voters was at the event with a big voter registration effort. Bill Spinelli stated that there was a full page advertisement in the Minneapolis Star Tribune asking that every member of Congress from Minnesota answer a set of questions listed in the newspaper regarding gun issues.

Gad Abouts Co-Chairs Cindy Toppin and Sue Cruse were in attendance. Cindy noted that the Coffee Concert would be the last Gad About outing for this program year. The group will attend a Coffee Concert at Orchestra Hall on May 3, 2018. 8 tickets are available and the cost is \$23.00. Cindy noted that she will need to know tonight if anyone else is interested in attending. The group will leave Hastings at 9:15 AM. Lunch will be at The Newsroom at 1:15.

Hospitality Co-Chairs Patty Todnem and Nancy Ahn had nothing to report.

Book Club Chair Shirley Tammen informed the members that the group will discuss the book News of the World by Paulette Jiles on Monday, April 9, 2018 at the home of Camille Nelson. On May 14, 2018, the group will discuss the book Origin by Dan Brown. Shirley reminded the membership of the AAUW book sale that will be held at the May 2018 General Meeting.

Twig Editor Lois Twedt had nothing to report

AAUW Funds Chair Glenda Schnirring had nothing to report.

NCCWSL Chair Gail Glashan had nothing to report.

Community Chair Margaret Goderstad informed the group that many activities are happening at the Hastings Art Center throughout the month of April. Please check the Hastings Art Center Website for more information. The Orange Dragon opens on April 4, 2018 with a presentation by Prescott High School Art Students. On May 12, 2018, a Mother's Day Tea will be held at the Le Duc.

Diversity Chair Marlys Schmitt was absent

Historian Chair Lisa Hedin was absent

Garage Sale Co-Chairs Ceil Strauss and Tricia Hawkins informed the group that The Grand Garage Sale will be held at River of Life Church on September 15, 2018. We will be able to begin setting up for the event after 8:30 PM on Wednesday September, 12, 2018.

Old Business: - Lisa thanked the Nominating Committee, comprised of Kathy O'Keefe, Peggy Schoeppner, Lois Twedt, Shirley Tammen and Ramona McCullough, for providing a full slate of candidates for our Branch to vote on at the April

General Meeting. The candidates for elected positions are Lisa West for President and Betty Hoeschen for Secretary. In addition, the following members have agreed to continue or take on the following Committee chairs: Linda Bindman, Twig Editor; Ruth Versaw and Camille Nelson, Membership; Ceil Straus and Tricia Hawkins, Garage Sale; and Vicki Amundson, Nancy Techam, Karen Holmquist, Gad Abouts. The AAUW State Convention will be held on April 27- 28th in Faribault, Minnesota. Lisa encouraged more members to attend this convention and noted that there is same day registration at the convention this year. The cost to attend the Saturday events is \$65.00. There is an additional \$20.00 fee for lunch. Lisa noted that resolutions can come from the floor at the State Convention. Contact Pat Powers with any questions concerning resolutions. AAUW State is still looking for a Web Page Manager.

New Business - Lisa informed the group that National Dues will increase from \$49.00 to \$59.00 effective March 16, 2018. It has been 9 years since AAUW National has raised dues but this increase will affect our branch. Prior to this increase, our branch members paid \$80.00 per year. Of that

amount, \$49 went to National, \$9.00 to State, and the remaining \$22.00 stayed with our branch. If we don't raise the dues, our branch will be left with only \$12.00 from every member. Our Branch Board voted to increase dues to \$90.00 per year effective for the 2018-2019 program year.

Announcements - Bill Spinelli informed the membership that the Hmong American Farmers Association will provide CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) shares for interested parties. The new twist to this is that those who buy shares can pick up their fresh produce at the YMCA in Hastings. Bill left flyers outlining the program and pricing. Kelsey Waits informed the group that School District 200 and the Hastings City Council are working on a Joint Project that focuses on diversity in Hastings. A Joint Proclamation will be issued declaring that diversity is welcomed and supported in Hastings at an event on April 29, 2018, from 6:00 - 7:30 in the Hastings High School Commons. Organizations are asked to sponsor a table. There is not cost, but at least 8 members of the organization must be present. Kelsey asked that AAUW agree to sponsor at least one table at the event.

There were 38 attendees at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M. by Lisa West. Shirley Tammen made the motion and Jan Junkman provided the second. Motion passed unanimously.

The evening's program, "What's Next for State Health Policy: Cost and Coverage" was presented by Lynn Blewett from the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The introduction was made by Deb Saunders.

### Book Club

*Shirley Tammen*

THE NEWS OF THE WORLD by Paulette Jiles is the selection chose for Monday, March 12. Set in post-Civil War, an itinerant old man plans to make his living as a news reader in Texas, but is asked to make a more difficult journey, to accompany a young girl who was kidnapped by Indians and return her to relatives. This is a novel of hope, redemption and the strength of the human heart. This book is in the book kit, and hopefully I can time it so as to get the selection to members several weeks before our meeting date. Camille Nelson will host this April 9 meeting. Because Camille lives in Vermillion, those wishing to car pool to her home should meet at Sterling Drug at 6:40 that evening.

The Monday, May 14, selected book is Dan Brown's most resent thriller, Origin. Martha Sofio will host this meet at her home.

Choose your summer reading at our annual "mini" book sale happening at our Monday, May 21 general meeting. This is an annual event to raise money for AAUW's contribution for Hastings Reads programs held each February. Bring your "gently" read current books to AAUW that evening or drop them off at my home or at St. Philips earlier so that the committee can sort before the meeting. We will begin selling the donated books (\$2.00 hard cover, \$1.00 paper) about 6:30 and again following the meeting.

### Treasurer's Report

*Mary Charlson*

The checking account balance as of March 31, 2018 was \$1722.47. The proposed budget for 2018-19 was presented at the Hastings AAUW Board Meeting. The final proposed budget will be presented for membership approval at the April general meeting.  
Mary Charlson, Treasurer

### Hastings AAUW Board Members

President .....	Lisa West
Past-President.....	Pam Pontzer
Co-Vice Presidents Membership.....	Camille Nelson Ruth Versaw
Co-Vice Presidents Programs.....	Rosalie Cavis Deb Saunders
Secretary .....	Pam Pontzer
Treasurer .....	Mary Charlson
AAUW Funds.....	Glenda Schnirring
Book Club.....	Shirley Tammen
Community.....	Margaret Goderstad
Diversity .....	Marlys Schmitt
Gad-Abouts.....	Susan Cruse Cindy Toppin
Historian.....	Lisa Hedin
Hospitality.....	Nancy Ahn Kathy Stockman Patty Todnem
NCCWSL.....	Gail Glashan
Newsletter.....	Lois Twedt
Public Policy.....	Pat Powers
Garage Sale .....	Linda Bindman Kathy O'Keefe
School Supply Drive .....	Mary Ellen Olson Cathy Sery
Website.....	Mary Ellen Fox

### Website Address:

<https://hastings-mn.aauw.net/>

### Password:

hastings2017

### AAUW Mission Statement

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

### AAUW Vision Statement

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

### Minnesota State Website

<http://aauw-mn.aauw.net>

## Community

Margaret Goderstad

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### The LeDuc Historic Estate

- Beautiful Mother's Day Tea - May 12, 3:30 p.m. - Reservations Required - Call 651-438-8480.

### Hastings Arts Center

- New Strings Quartet - April 17 - Call for Reservations  
- Tuesday Coffee Concerts - Check website for these 10 a.m. free concerts.

### Orange Dragon Art Gallery - Prescott - Open for the Season

- Prescott Student Art Work - April 4-28 - Check for Hours.

## Historian

Lisa Hedin

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### *From the Scrapbook!*

